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LIFE'S WORK ENDED --- Sketch of the Career of Joseph Stacy Murdock

IN UTAH WITH THE FIRST --- Was Ever Foremost in its Upbuilding

Through Times of Stress This Brave
Pioneer Was a Pillar of Strength --
Honors Came with Years and His
Loss is Deeply Mourned By
Many Friends and Acquaintances

Heber, Feb. 17--(Special Correspondence)--One by one the founders of our commonwealth are passing away. The last of the pioneers to join the majority on the other side was Joseph Stacy Murdock, who, as stated in yesterday's Herald, died in Heber City at 4 o'clock Wednesday afternoon. The cause of death was la grippe, which developed into pneumonia.

The deceased had a most interesting and active career. He was born June 26, 1822, at Hamilton, Madison county, New York. His father's family embraced Mormonism in their native town in 1826.

Some time after this the family started for the body of the church, which, at this time, was located at Nauvoo, Illinois. By this time young Murdock was about 20 years of age. Before starting out with his father and other members of the family, he concluded he would marry. Miss Eunice Sweet was a noble young lady, who also believed in the new religion, and he proposed to her, and they were married just prior to starting on their journey for Nauvoo, where they arrived in 1842, and met the prophet Joseph Smith. Old father Murdock turned all his property over to the Church, and in return received his "inheritance in Zion," under the direction of the prophet.

Young Murdock became well acquainted with Joseph and Hyrum, often sitting under their teachings.

On March 21, 1843, he received his patriarchial blessing under the hands of Hyrum Smith. Among other things he was promised that he should have a numerous posterity, a very peculiar promise, since the young man had been married a number of years and his wife had, as yet, bore no children. In 1843 the young man was ordained a seventy, under the direction of the prophet Joseph.

At the expulsion of the Saints from Nauvoo, he, with his wife, mother, sister and two brothers, started for the Rocky Mountains, the father having died previous to the expulsion from the city. While the body of the church was on the banks of the Missouri river, word came for 500 able-bodied men to go and fight the nation's battles with Mexico. Like a true patriot, Mr. Murdock turned his charge over to the care of one of his younger brothers, a mere lad, and volunteered his services to the country. Being an excellent hand with cattle, however, he was excused from military life and placed in charge of the cattle of those who joined the Mormon Battalion. He continued the journey across the plains, and arrived in Salt Lake valley September 22, 1847, when the new home of the Saints was less than two months old.

In 1849 he was called by President Brigham Young to go back to Green river and assist the Saints who were coming to Zion. The year 1852 came, and still the subject of this

From files of Adath Murdock Webb (Floyd)

sketch was childless. But in the fall of 1852 the young man took a second wife. His wife, Eunice, gave her husband the hand of Miss Eliza Clark, by whom he had six children. He married again, this time taking two wives, Jane Sharp and Elizabeth Hunter, and in 1858 he married Pemetta Murdock, an Indian girl.

In 1856 President Young called him to take his family and assist in settling Carson valley. When word reached President Young, in 1857, that Johnston's army was on its way to Utah, the Carson valley settlers were called back to Salt Lake City. In the fall of that year he took his family and located in American Fork.

On November 15, 1860, he was ordained a bishop, under the hands of Brigham Young, and sent to preside over the people who were locating Wasatch county, and, therefore, was first bishop of Heber. While acting in that capacity he served one term as representative of the county in the territorial legislature. In 1857 he, with others, was called to settle St. Joe, on the Muddy Nevada. He remained there three years, when he was released by President Young to return home to Provo valley. While on his way home he secured a contract from the government for carrying the mail from Provo to Echo, via Provo canyon, and continued in this business for a number of years. He was a pioneer in every sense of the word, always engaged in building up new country and making peace with the Indians. He had a magnetic influence over the red men, who would always listen to him.

In 1889 he was arraigned before Judge Blackburn at Provo for infringement of the Edmunds-Tucker law. His first wife had died years before, and he was advised to marry one of his plural wives and repudiate the others. He was a firm believer in the principle of "plural marriage," and obeyed the principle feeling from the depths of his heart it was of God, and no man could persuade him to repudiate any of his wives. They had been true to him, and he could not go back on the sacred promises he made with them in the days of their youth. He was sentenced to a term of one month in the territorial penitentiary for unlawful cohabitation. The aged gentleman by this time had fully convinced the judge of his honesty. Committal papers were handed him, and he was allowed to go from the court room unattended by guard. He went back home to visit his family, then went down to Salt Lake and presented his own committal papers at the penitentiary, was taken in, and served out his sentence of one month.

In the days of the Black Hawk troubles Mr Murdock took a leading hand in settling the Indian uprisings of those days. When Wasatch stake was organized he was made president of the high council, which position he held at the time of his death. He always manifested implicit confidence in Mormonism, even to the hour of his death. He was the husband of five wives, the father of thirty-two children, and had 137 grandchildren and six greatgrandchildren, a total posterity of 175, so he lived to see the words of Patriarch Hyrum Smith fulfilled to the very letter.

Three of his wives and seven of his children had preceded him to the great beyond.

He was known throughout the entire church.